

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SACO SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARD FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL BREAKFASTS

(Saco, MT) Saco School is receiving statewide recognition for their exceptional school breakfast program through the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge Award Program. Saco School District is one of only four schools in Montana that have received this prestigious school breakfast award. Saco School District serves 25 breakfast meals and 70 lunches each day.

"Many of our rural schools are going above and beyond to serve healthy, nutritious foods and incorporate local foods into their menus. Saco is a great example of a school who understands the importance of giving students a healthy start to their day, supporting Montana agriculture and creating good eating habits that will last a lifetime," said Superintendent Denise Juneau.

Jeanette Salveson, School Food Service Director, and her staff work hard to prepare fresh, homemade meals daily. School breakfast includes fresh fruit, freshly baked bread, lean proteins, low fat dairy foods and healthy cereal choices. Saco students have been enjoying whole grain foods for years thanks to Jeanette's baking skills and willingness to try new recipes. Saco School District successfully met a challenging set of menu criteria to qualify for the award.

"We don't try to follow trends or set records we just want to set an example of what good nutrition looks and tastes like for our students and staff!" Salveson said.

According to District Superintendent Gordon Hahn, Saco School meals provide a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the student population. Saco students also benefit from healthy school lunch meals as well as a daily fresh fruit and vegetable snack program. Saco School supports local agriculture by purchasing locally grown meat and bread.

"Jeanette and her kitchen assistants provide students and staff with a variety of foods and options all designed to promote healthy eating protocols. She is an excellent worker, flexible, and provides positive eating habits for every person who eats meals here," Hahn states.

In addition to serving as an outstanding role model for other schools in Montana, Saco School will receive an award banner, certificate, as well as a \$500.00 monetary award.

For more information about the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge, please visit:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/HealthyMT.html#gpm1_3

Montana Office of Public Instruction officials will present the award to Saco School on Tuesday, May 22, 2012. The special breakfast meal with the award celebration to follow begins at 7:30 a.m. Parents and community members are invited to attend the award celebration and enjoy a healthy, tasty breakfast.

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